(b) As per available information, only 16 villages are yet to be electrified in the State, of which, 9 villages are treated as uninhabited.

(c) Two villages are programmed for electrification in Tamil Nadu during the current year.

Soviet aided Power and Coal Mining Projects in West Bengal and Bihar

1843. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fate of a number of Soviet-aided power projects in West Bengal and Bihar have become uncertain following the post-coup developments in the Soviet Union as per the news item entitled "Soviet-aided projects face black future" which appeared in the 'Times of India' of the 16th September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The power projects tied up for Soviet technical and financial assistance are the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (840 MW) of the National Thermal Power Corporation and the Maithon Thermal Power Project (840 MW) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, both in Bihar and the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project Phase-I (630 MW) of the West Bengal Power Development Corporation in West Bengal. The Soviet Government have assured the Government of India that it stands by all its commitments in the power sector, as recently as on 14-18 November, 1991 during the visit to Moscow of the External Affairs Minister.

Progress of Soviet assisted Thermal Power Projects

1844. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Soviet assisted Thermal Power Projects in the country;

(b) what is the present stage of progress in respect of each of those projects;

(c) whether the Indo-Soviet working Group on Power has met, recently; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) A list of Soviet aided Thermal Power Projects alongwith their present status is given below:—

Name of the Project	Implementing Agency Capacity (MW)	Present status
1. Vindhyachal STPP Stage-I (M.P.)	NTPC (1260)	All units commissioned.
2. Vindhyachal STPP Stage-II (M.P.)	NTPC (1000)	Preliminary work at site is in progress.
3. Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project Stage-I (Kerala)	NTPC (420)	Environment and Forest clearances awaited. DPR has been prepared by Soviet side.